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GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL - NORTHUMBERLAND.

Council Chambers,
GOSFORTH.
September, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Gosforth Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 13/47 I beg to submit a very brief interim report on the health of the District during the year 1946; as usual some details of the sanitary circumstances of the area are given in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report which is presented herewith.

The official statistics furnished by the Registrar-General are used throughout the report; in all cases where numbers are stated, the comparative figures for 1945 will be inserted in brackets.

POPULATION.

The estimated civilian population at mid year 1946 was 22,390 (20,650)- this represents a further increase larger than in any previous year.

BIRTHS.

394 (331) live births and 9 (13) still births were registered during the year; the birth rate was 17.6 (16.0) compared with 19.1 (16.1) for England and Wales.
There was 1 (1) maternal death.

INFANT MORTALITY.

9 (12) deaths of infants under one year of age were reported giving a rate of 22.8 (36.2) per thousand live births; the corresponding figure for England and Wales was 43 (46).

DEATHS.

There were 239 (270) deaths from all causes at all ages; the death rate was 10.6 (13.1) per thousand per annum against 11.5 (11.4) for England and Wales.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Apart from tuberculosis 378 (437) notifications were received - the vast majority were in respect of minor

illnesses such as Measles, Whooping Cough and Chickenpox; 29 (12) cases of Dysentery were reported from the City Mental Hospital, 22 (34) cases of Scarlet Fever, 5 cases of Poliomyelitis and 5 (15) cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year - all the notified cases of Diphtheria had been immunised.

During the year 20 (27) children were immunised by General Practitioners and 337 (273) at the Welfare Centre - a total of 357 (300); included in this total are 18 (28) children residing outside the District who attended the Gosforth Clinic.
In addition 146 children who had already been treated received a supplementary dose at the Centre.

8 (8) deaths were attributed to Pneumonia but none to Diphtheria, Cerebro-spinal Fever, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough or Measles.

TUBERCULOSIS.

23 (33) new cases of Tuberculosis were notified and there were 6 (8) 'transfers' from other Districts; 11 (11) deaths occurred.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Consumption) accounted for 18 of the 23 notifications and 9 of the 11 deaths.

The total number of 'live' cases on the register at the end of the year was 137 (122) - of these 101 (90) were pulmonary and 36 (32) non-pulmonary.

CHILDWELFARE.

2 484 (1844) domiciliary visits were paid by the Health Visitors and 195 (195) Child Welfare Sessions were held at the Centre at which the total number of attendances was 7029 (6122) by 1183 (1120) individuals of whom 454 (377) were 'new' children; in addition 790 (2 70) special interviews were granted to parents at the office and 456 (354) simple dressings were applied.

Apart from the 195 Child Welfare Sessions 26 Special Immunisation Sessions were held at which 783 Anti-Diphtheria injections were administered to 462 children, and 45 Ultra-violet Sessions at which 523 exposures were given to 28 children.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION. (Children and Young Persons Act, 1932 - Part 5.

There were 5 children under nine years of age boarded out with foster-mothers during the twelve months; one child

was legally adopted which left four children on the register at the end of the year. The Senior Health Visitor is the Inspector under this Act.

Adoption of Children. During the year seven persons gave notice to this Authority of their intention to place eight babies in the care of Adopters with a view to legal adoption. All these babies were legally adopted by the end of the year.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

121 (102) sessions were held at the Centre at which a total of 1371 (822) attendances were registered; of these 308 (186) were Ante-natal first visits and 115 (98) Post-natal first visits. 21 of the 328 Expectant Mothers on the register were non-residents of Gosforth.

DENTAL CLINIC.

This clinic has now been established 15 years. During the year 28 (28) sessions were held and 56 (52) children had general anaesthetics administered for multiple extractions and minor operative treatment. The total attendances was 196 (180) and this included a number of Ante-natal patients who received treatment for the relief of pain or general oral sepsis.

PEDICULOSIS.

As in previous years there was close co-operation with the School Nurse - houses where the children were known to be affected were visited, contacts examined and appropriate treatment recommended.

SCABIES.

No reliable information is available as to the number of cases in the District but it is believed that the measures taken in previous cases have resulted in a much decreased prevalence.

GENERAL.

So far as the Public Health of the District is concerned 1946 was a very satisfactory year - there was a welcome decrease in the death rate and a very considerable increase in the number of births with fewer infant deaths and fewer still births - actually the number of births was the largest ever recorded.

Five cases of Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) were notified - more than in any recent year but there were no deaths.

Good progress continues to be made in the Anti-Diphtheria immunisation campaign - only five cases of Diphtheria were reported during the year none of them severe.

The work of the Health Department has continued to run smoothly and I am glad to have this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered by all the staff whole time and part-time.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the Council for their interest in the work of the Department and their generous support of all my recommendations.

Yours faithfully,
W.H. DICKINSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,

I beg to submit a brief report, my first as Senior Sanitary Inspector, to this Council for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

My predecessor, Mr. W. Combey, was responsible for part of the work contained in this report. During the year Mr. Gordon Bennett, the Additional Sanitary Inspector left the service of this Council to take up a similar appointment with Wortley R.D.C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district has a piped supply provided by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. No complaints were received during the year and no samples were procured.

Information received from the Chief Engineer of the Water Company reveals that out of 330 samples taken at the Head Works and in Newcastle, 328 were found free from coliform bacteria per 100 c.c.

Except for about 8 premises, all the dwelling houses in the Gosforth area have an internal piped supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No complaints were laid during the year in connection with the discharge of effluent from the City Sewage Works at Fawdon, although the effluent therefrom is far from satisfactory.

Work in connection with the redrainage and improvement of the sanitary accommodation at the Greyhound Stadium is now in progress. In addition to abating a nuisance to residents in the Garden Village area, resulting from the unsatisfactory discharge of effluent from the Stadium, this work should prove of immense value in further reducing the rodent infestation existing at the Stadium. Unfortunately, owing to restrictions on the granting of building licences, due to the shortage of materials etc., part of the scheme, i.e. the improvement of the present sanitary accommodation has had to be left in abeyance.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

The regular collection of refuse and salvage during the year continued in a satisfactory manner. It was possible to maintain the weekly collection of refuse, plus a separate weekly collection of salvage throughout the district.

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The large amounts of ash and coal dross contained in the refuse from the miners' dwellings in the Coxlodge area rendered it necessary to continue the twice weekly collection of refuse in that area in addition to the weekly collection of salvage.

The estimated quantity of refuse, including salvage, collected from all premises was 8438 tons. 7872 tons were disposed of by controlled tipping at the Brunton Quarry Tip and 294 tons to farms etc. The amount of refuse collected per 1000 population was 384 tons and the amount per premises 1.2 tons.

The Brunton Quarry Tip is rapidly filling up and its "life" may be estimated at about 18 months. A problem of major importance is thus created, as fresh tipping space is proving most difficult to obtain.

Vehicles.

The fleet of vehicles maintained by this Department for the purpose of refuse collection and disposal is detailed in the following table.

MAKE.	Reg.No.	Date of purchase.	CAPACITY.	TYPE.
VULCAN	JR.234	1933	6.0 c.yds.	SIDE LOADER.
VULCAN	JR.3521	1935	12.3 c. "	REAR LOADER, MOVABLE FLOOR.
KARRIER CK3.	JR.6223	1937	12.7 c. "	do.
KARRIER CK3.	JR.7867	1938	12.5 c. "	do.
KARRIER BANTAM.	ATY.898	1942	7.0 c. "	SIDE LOADER.
KARRIER CK3.	BTY.994	1946	10.0 c. "	do.
COMMER.	JR.5244	1936	3.7 c.yds.	SMALL UTILITY VAN.

The new vehicle (BTY 994) which accidentally did not arrive until November, although the order was placed in February is giving excellent service. In view of the difficulty of securing new vehicles and spare parts for existing vehicles, it was considered necessary to carry out repairs to JR.234 and register it for a further year. This procedure enabled the other vehicles to be withdrawn from the road to receive, which in my opinion, was long overdue, major attention, without creating any disorganisation to the system.

Salvage.

During the year propaganda was utilised to keep the public "salvage-conscious" and although the returns show a slight decrease upon the previous year I think the effort is still a commendable one.

It can be stated quite definitely that had it not been for the severe winter the income would have been much higher. The income from salvage during the financial year ending March, 1947, amounted to £1051. 10. (last year's figure was £1216). The income from trade and special refuse collections amounted to £17. 11. 1d.

The following table shows the amount of salvage collected, and the amount received from it.

Commodity.	Tonnage. tons.	cwts.	Income.		
Waste paper.	113	4	£721.	14.	0.
Bones.	1	15	9.	12.	0.
Metal.	13	19¾	27.	12.	0.
Kitchen Waste.	136	17	205.	6.	0.
Bottles and Jars.	2	2½	24.	10.	0.
Rags.	4	10¼	62.	16.	0.
	272	8½	£1051.	10.	0.

HOUSING.

Throughout the year re-housing work proceeded smoothly and by the end of the year accommodation had been found for 114 families. Thus the more acute cases of overcrowding were relieved, but there still remains a considerable number of overcrowded cases to be dealt with. The demand for accommodation continues, and at the end of the year there were no less than 1450 applications.

The continued shortage of labour and materials rendered it extremely difficulty to secure the necessary repair of houses. In several cases, owners who were only too willing and anxious to execute the necessary repairs, experienced the utmost difficulty in procuring builders to carry out the work.

In the majority of cases, repair work carried out was secured after the serving of informal notices. In thirteen cases, statutory action was taken. One hesitates to bring into force the Repairs Section of the Housing Act, 1936, Section 9 owing to the impracticability of enforcing in full the standards laid down for ensuring that a dwelling house is in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

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GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

A perusal of the following tables will give some idea of the number of visits made in connection with matters coming within the purview of this Department, and also with regard to sanitary improvements effected.

TABLE 1.

No. of Visits.

Various Public Health matters.	1481
Housing applications.	303
Drainage:- Enquiries.	126
Smoke Tests.	22
Water Tests.	146
Verminous Premises -visits and re-visits.	59
Infectious Diseases - visits and re-visits.	227
Infectious Diseases. - Disinfections.	35
Rodent Infestations.	206
Factories and Workplaces.	46
Stables.	12
Food Premises.	273
Cowsheds, Dairies etc.	26
Places of Public Entertainment.	19
Hairdressing Establishments.	24
Supervision over Refuse Collection.	22
Miscellaneous visits.	12
Total.	3039

TABLE 11.

Sanitary Improvements Effected.

Dwelling Houses:-

Provided with Damp-proof Course.	13
Roofs repaired.	41
Floors repaired, ventilated, etc.	36
Plastered walls and ceilings repaired	37
Windows repaired, made to open etc.	7
Sashcords renewed.	9
Food Stores provided, repaired etc.	2
Stairs repaired.	5
Skirting boards provided or repaired.	3
Doors repaired, rehung or renewed.	12
Firegrates repaired, reset or renewed.	5
Chimneys or Chimney stacks repaired.	4
New sinks provided and fixed.	3
Sink wastes repaired or renewed.	11
Water supply provided inside houses.	2
Wash coppers repaired or provided	2

External Walls pointed.	10
Ovens repaired or renewed.	1
Walls rendered with water-proofed cement	14
Eaves-gutters and R.W.P. renewed.	43
Yard paving repaired.	11

Drains, Water Closets and Ashes Accommodation:-

Obstructed drains cleansed.	38
Obstructed W.C. cleansed.	3
Yard gullies provided and connected to drains.	11
Drains repaired or reconstructed.	14
W.C. basins renewed.	21
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed.	18
Closet structures repaired.	13
Dustbins provided.	50
Total.	439

Infestation Order, 1943.

Rats & Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

The number of complaints received in this connection was 39, and the number of premises involved, was 65. Primary inspection revealed that 48 of the premises were infested with rats. There was no evidence to support the complaints of any rodent infestation in the remainder.

The infestation at the Greyhound Pit drum is considerably reduced and this pleasing situation may be attributed to three factors, namely:-

(a) Frequent and regular service by this Council's Rodent Operator.
(b) Renewal of drainage system.
(c) Adoption of sound rat-proofing methods.

Following a survey in the High Street, a major infestation was discovered involving a block of business premises. Block control was exercised with excellent results after each occupier concerned agreed to accept the services of this Council's Rodent Operator.

It was intended to carry out two sewer maintenance treatments during the financial year ending March 31st, 1947. Unfortunately, owing to exceptional labour difficulties due to sickness, plus the severity of the winter, it was possible for only one treatment to be carried out with results as follows:-

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Total No. of Inspection Chambers treated - 251
Final Assessment of poison bait takes:-

Small	85
Good	7
	92

Estimated kill carried out according to the Ministry of Food Circular points to a total of 795 rats.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

This Department was called upon to deal with premises infested with flies, fleas, bugs cockroaches and similar vermin.

Disinfestation of premises was carried out by the application of DDT, either in liquid or in powdered form with excellent results.

A number of premises were found to be infested with bugs. In some cases treatment included the removal of wall-paper together with the cleaning of architraves, skirting boards etc., followed by an application of Zaldecide/DDT. In all cases revisits were made and when found necessary further treatment carried out to ensure that the premises concerned were free from vermin.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a). Dairies and Cowsheds.

Two cow-keepers who are also retailers of milk remained on the register, namely, A.F. Moralee, Red House Farm, Fawdon, and J.R. Oliver, Home Farm, Gosforth.

The number of cows kept is approximately 75, the greater number being the "T.T." herd at Red House Farm. Cow-keepers premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition, although there were the usual issueing of notices requesting lime-washing etc., to be carried out.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The following is a summary of the particulars of the Milk and Dairies Register at the 31st December, 1946.

No. of persons registered as cow-keepers	2.
No. of premises registered as cowsheds	2.
No. of cows kept on registered premises.	75.
No. of cow-keepers retailing milk.	2.

No. of persons registered as dairymen in the area. 3.
No. of Dairymen outside the area, retailing within the area. 13.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licences, for the sale of graded milk within the area, were issued.

To sell Tuberculin Tested Milk. 6.
To sell Accredited Milk. 1.
To sell Pasteurised Milk 1.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

144 samples of milk were procured for examination at the County Laboratory, with the following results.

Examination.	Grade of Milk.	No. found Satisfy.	Unsatisfty.	Total.	% Satisfty.
Methylene Blue Test.	Ungraded.	56	23	79	70.88.
	Accredited.	30	8	38	78.95.
	Pasteurised.	8	-	8	100.0.
	"T.T."	12	6	18	66.6.
Phosphatase.	Pasteurised.	1	-	1	100.0.
		Not found	Present.		
B. Tuberculosis.	Ungraded.	12	-	12	100.0.
	Accredited.	12	1	13	92.31.
	"T.T."	7	-	7	100.0.

Total Number of Samples Taken.

Examination.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Total.	%Satisfty.
Methylene Blue Test.	106	37	143	74.13.
Phosphatase.	1	-	1	100.0
	Not found.	Present.	Total.	% Present.
B. Tuberculosis.	31	1	32	3.12.

These figures compare favourably with those of the past two years, although the high percentage of unsatisfactory samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk gives rise to some concern.

No effort has been spared in an endeavour to secure that milk retailed within this area is of a satisfactory keeping quality. Copies of the Laboratory reports on unsatisfactory samples were forwarded to producers and dairymen concerned, together with a request that all necessary and appropriate steps should be taken to rectify the matter. Representations were also made to local authorities in whose area the milk was produced, and, as circumstances deemed it necessary, to the Milk Marketing Board.

Only one sample out of thirty-two examined was found positive for B.Tuberculosis. Action taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in this matter, resulted in one cow being slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. The herd concerned was outside the district.

B. REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Section 14. Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year two more premises were registered under the above Act, bringing the total of registered premises up to forty-eight.

The majority of premises were found in a fairly good condition and maintained in a reasonable state of cleanliness. There is, however, much room for improvement and as soon as the time becomes opportune, i.e. when restrictions are relaxed, labour and material more plentiful, no effort should be spared in bringing all food premises, as a minimum requirement, up to the standard laid down in Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. It is extremely important that the standard of hygiene in the preparation and handling of food for human consumption should be of the highest.

Slaughter Houses.

The two private-slaughter houses in the district were again licensed during the year, but no killing took place in them - all meat being received from the contralised slaughter-house in Newcastle.

Condemnation of Food.

The following articles of food were voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

200	Tins	Milk.
76	"	Fish.
55	"	Beans.
27	"	Peas.
19	"	Meat Roll.
19	"	Malted Food.
16	"	Jam.
15	"	Soups.
11	"	Stewed Steak
13	"	Fruit.
9	"	Tomatoes.
9	"	Meat & veg. Ration.
6	"	Macaroni.
5	"	Pudding.
3	"	Paste.
2	"	Carrots.

2	Tins	Ox Tongue.
2	"	Treacle.
1	"	Spaghetti.
1	Jar.	Pickles.
1	"	Beetroot.
20	lbs.	Home Killed Beef.
9	lbs.	Pork.
3½	cwt.	Flour.
6	st.	Tripe.
7	lbs.	Mustard.
2	cases	Rabbits (120 lbs).
4	lbs.	Assorted sweets.
8½	lbs.	Biscuits.
4½	lbs.	Cheese.
18	(only)	Fish cakes.

STAFF.

I would like to record my warm appreciation of the generous help afforded me by the staff, also with regard to the efficient manner in which the affairs of the Department have been carried out.

I am indebted to Mr. Smith (Outside Foreman) who, as usual, has worked well and conscientiously, and also to the Cleansing Staff.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE STENGER.

Senior Sanitary Inspector,
Salvage Officer.